

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4901

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO UNN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MO EG

SUBJECT: KING'S INTERVIEW FOR EGYPTIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION

1. INTRODUCTION: MOROCCAN MEDIA HAVE DEVOTED HEAVY PLAY TO HALF-HOUR INTERVIEW BETWEEN KING HASSAN AND AHMED FARAJ, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR INFORMATION TECHNIQUES IN EGYPTIAN INFORMATION MINISTER'S OFFICE. INTERVIEW WAS BROADCAST ON MOROCCAN RADIO AND TV MARCH 17, PUBLICIZED IN PRESS FOLLOWING DAY, AND IS REPORTEDLY TO BE CARRIED ON EGYPTIAN TELEVISION AND RADIO AT SOME FUTURE DATE. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SOURCE, PALACE HAD REQUESTED EGYPTIANS IN JANUARY TO SET IT UP.

2. SUMMARY: INTERVIEW WAS QUITE GENERAL, AND MOST OF IT DEALT WITH ECONOMIC SUBJECTS (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL). MAJOR ITEM OF POLITICAL INTEREST WAS PASSAGE IMPLYING SUPPORT FOR STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TOWARD MIDDLE EAST PEACE, BALANCED BY STRESS ON NEED
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TO COORDINATE EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN MOVES. KING'S UPBEAT PREDICTIONS

OF ECONOMIC TAKEOFF FOR MOROCCO AND RENAISSANCE FOR ARAB WORLD IN GENERAL, PLUS PARTICULAR PAINS HE TOOK TO FLATTER HIS EGYPTIAN AUDIENCE, SEEM TO SIGNIFY A GROWING INTEREST IN CONSOLIDATING HIS POSITION IN FRONT RANK OF ARAB LEADERS. END SUMMARY.

3. MIDDLE EAST. KING TOOK PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH IN DISCUSSING MIDDLE EAST (HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION PEACE EFFORTS), WHERE HE SAW SIGNIFICANT CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. ARAB SUMMIT, HE SAID, HAD ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES ON WHICH NO STATE COULD RENEGE. ARAB POLICY NOW UNIFIED AND ADVERSARIES AWARE THAT ARAB RANKS CANNOT BE BREACHED. SADAT AND ASSAD, IN MAKING THEIR BELIEFS CLEAR AND NOT DECEIVING THE MASSES AS TO REAL INTENTIONS, HAVE INTRODUCED NEW PHENOMENON TO ARAB MIDDLE EAST POLICY. KING WELCOMED FACT THAT DISTORTED OUTLOOK CREATED BY "YEARS OF DISSIMULATION" NOW GIVING WAY TO "CONFRONTATION OF REALITY WITH REAL MEANS", ... "SLOWLY BUT SURELY MOVING THROUGH ALL NECESSARY STAGES". UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE, KING ADDED, WAS THAT OF ACCEPTANCE OF PART RATHER THAN REJECTION OF WHOLE. ANY SYRIAN OR EGYPTIAN SUCCESS BENEFITS ALL ARABS, BUT TWO COUNTRIES MUST CONSULT IN ADVANCE SO THAT ANY UNILATERAL MOVE IS INTEGRAL PART OF LARGER JOINT STRATEGY.

4. ARAB WORLD RENAISSANCE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION REGARDING NEW ARAB WEALTH AND DISPARITY BETWEEN ARAB COUNTRIES WITH CAPITAL SURPLUSES AND THOSE IN NEED, KING SPOKE FIRST OF WHAT HE CALLED "GRAVE YET DELICATE FACT TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION". ARAB NATION HAS ALREADY PASSED THROUGH TWO PHASES: FIRST; THE "LETHARGY OF COLONIALISM"; SECOND, "A REAWAKENING TO THE DIGNITY OF THE ARAB (AS A HUMAN BEING)." ARAB WORLD IS NOW AT HISTORIC JUNCTURE. "IT INCUMBENT ON US (ROYAL PLURAL) AS WELL AS OTHER NATIONAL LEADERS TO SEE THAT NECESSITY OF 'THE THIRD STEP' IS UNDERSTOOD". ARABIC LANGUAGE MUST BE TAUGHT AS NATURALLY AS OTHER WORLD LANGUAGES IN EUROPE AND AMERICAN IN ORDER THAT BUSINESSMEN CAN CONDUCT AFFAIRS WITH ARABS IN THEIR OWN TONGUE. CULTURAL PREEMINENCE OF ABBASID ERA"...WHEN SOME EUROPEANS DRESSED IN SKINS..."MUST BE RECAPTURED.

5. MOROCCAN-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION. KING FLATTERED EGYPTIAN AUDIENCE BY ASSERTING EGYPT PRECEDED MOROCCO BY A CENTURY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN REALM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, POSSESSES COMMENSURATELY GREATER TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES. IN COMMERCIAL DOMAIN, KING SAW POTENTIAL FIELD OF COOPERATION AS "VAST", WITH EGYPT'S IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND LARGE POPULATION COMPLEMENTING MOROCCO'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL. OUTLOOK FOR SOUND MOROCCAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS THEREFORE NEVER MORE PROMISING, IN KING'S VIEW.

6. COMMENT: IN CALLING FOR BROAD RESURGENCE OF ARAB WORLD, KING CLEARLY SEEKING TO BOLSTER HIS CREDENTIALS AS STATESMAN AND MAJOR ARAB LEADER. NOTEWORTHY IN THIS REGARD THAT NO MENTION MADE OF GOM'S TERRITORIAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST SPAIN. PRACTICAL MAN OF PEACE ALSO EMERGED IN WORDS OF REALISM ON MIDDLE EAST, WHICH CAN BE READ AS A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN THOUGH PEACE SETTLEMENT NOT DISCUSSED DIRECTLY. KING, SPEAKING TO EGYPTIAN AUDIENCE, SEEMED TO IMPLY PARTICULAR SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S APPROACH, WHILE AT SAME TIME BEING CAREFUL TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF SYRIA AS FULLY CONCERNED PARTNER.
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